

February 4, 1975

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise in support of Senator Luedtke's bill. We that sat on the committee, as Senator Swigart has said, felt that what was presented to us was certainly well founded. Our experience here has also proven the same thing. I want to make two points. I think one was made by Senator Swigart and the other one by Senator Luedtke. We do, or will, have more opportunity to discuss bills on General File if we have more time devoted to it. We will get deeper into the bills and have an opportunity for more questions and probably iron out those errors that might get into a bill when it gets on final reading. In addition, the other point that we must not forget, that we will still be able to read bills on final reading if the Legislature so desires. It is difficult to make a change in our legislative procedures constitutionalwise. But this is prohibited by Constitution and this does give us the privilege of doing as our Legislature sees fit. Believing it to be beneficial to the image and to the operations of our legislative body. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Burbach, Mr. Speaker.

SENATOR BURBACH: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, it seems as though I'll probably be the only one in opposition, at this point at least, on the final reading of the entire reading of a bill on final reading. But I believe there's possibly another solution and I have not taken the time necessary to make a very positive suggestion here this morning. But I do know we do have bills that are sixteen, eighteen and twenty pages long which are very minimal in changes, and possibly three, four, five words is all that's in the bill to be changed. I believe that we have a problem and I have not discussed this with our bill drafter. I believe that we can surmount this problem and have a short bill, a much shorter bill than we are now experiencing so that we can make these changes, have final reading, and curtail one-half or three-fourth of our time. I'm certain that we all know that when we see a bill introduced in Congress, most all of those bills are two, three pages in length. In some of our other states I have seen their bills. Some of them are as long as ours. But most of them refer to a section and a section only, instead of the preamble of legislation. I believe the figure may be sixty pages for the preamble of the sales and the income tax before any changes can be made. This is just a repetition that we're standing there reading. I agree with the introducer of this legislation, this constitutional amendment, that we are devoting an undue amount of time on final reading. I believe, however, that we can work, and I would like to discuss this at some particular time at more length and detail to try to visit with our bill drafter and see if we couldn't cut down fifty to seventy-five percent of our time on final reading. I think it does serve a useful purpose and so I would oppose the passage of the bill at this time.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kremer.